ume 14 no. 1 september, 1961

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

tudy Materials on Issues efore The General Synod

Readers of CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY ill receive with this issue a copy of the atements approved by the Third Gen- al Synod of the United Church of hrist, which met in Philadelphia, Penn- lvania, July 2-7, 1961. These refer to igratory agricultural labor, international lations, race and cultural matters, nd conscientious objectors. Additional ppies of these statements may be obtained om either office of the CCSA, at 10 nts each, or 5 cents each in orders of enty or more copies.

Please note that the CCSA is ready to rovide study materials which can be sed in connection with these statements. ackets on Conscientious Objectors, and n Racial Integration in the Churches nd in Housing are available at 25c and 1, respectively. Also statements (copy 5c) on Christians and the Arms Race Jan. 30, 1960) and Concern for Public ducation (Feb. 5, 1959).

SOCIAL ACTION magazine has featured esponsible Parenthood and the Popula- on Problem (April, 1960); The Popu- tion Explosion (December, 1958) and gainst Capital Punishment (April, 961).

Attention is also called to the Edward . Murrow TV "Harvest of Shame" ovie on migratory farm workers. This nescope is now available in the Philadel- nia and St. Louis offices of the Bureau Audio Visual Aids, at a rental cost of 12. It runs for 58 minutes. Dr. Shirley . Greene is preparing a study guide to be sed with the General Synod's statement n migratory agricultural labor. It will available in CCSA offices in October.

ON WORLD ORDER SEMINAR

An enclosure with this issue of HRISTIAN COMMUNITY carries the an- ouncement of the 15th annual World rder and United Nations Seminar, to held in New York City October 17-19. Enrollment in the Seminar is usually mited to about sixty persons. The im- ortance of the subjects to be considered ould attract wide attention. Send appli- tions early to the Rev. Herman F. eissig, New York City.

SOCIAL ACTION AT GENERAL SYNOD

By Ray Gibbons

The unification of the United Church of Christ and the adoption of the Constitution were undoubtedly the chief concern of the Third General Synod, as of the First and Second General Synods. This paramount attention to unity was, of course, not only necessary but highly desirable at this historic period in the growth of the union. The Synod adopted the Constitution and By-Laws, and took many other actions necessary for the unification of the organizations and instrumentalities of the United Church. It proceeded with its task with "deliberate speed" and made significant progress toward the unity of heart and mind and spirit as well as of created instrumentalities.

Even while these steps toward union were being taken, there was increased attention to the mission of the United Church. All the work of unifying the instrumentalities would avail only if the mission of the churches were forwarded by their unification. So the Third General Synod presented reports and proposals for new thrusts which would express the lordship of Christ in church and society.

The Budget Committee of the United Church of Christ proposed a budget of $14,300,000 which included the amount of $270,300 for the Council for Christian Social Action. After many questions about the budget for the major boards and Stewardship Council were answered, the budget as proposed was adopted.

The Nominating Committee presented the names of persons it believed were able to give outstanding leadership to the instrumentalities. In the case of the CCSA most of the persons whose terms had not expired were continued in the new CCSA. The Synod elected eighteen members according to the By-Laws and another nine members will be elected by the eighteen when they meet September 12-14 in Washington, D. C. At that time the reorganized CCSA will elect officers and appoint biennial committees for international relations, racial and cultural relations, economic life, social welfare, religious and civil liberty, and publications.

One of the features new to Congregational Christians was the appointment of a number of Review Committees to consider the reports of the instrumentalities prior to their presentation on the floor of

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 1)

The General Synod allowed a half hour on its afternoon program, July 6, for a presentation of the work of the Council for Christian Social Action. This was given by Council Chairman, Dr. Hugo W. Thompson and by several committee chairmen. Seated at the table, left to right, are: the Rev. Alfred F. Schroeder, Social Welfare; Dr. Thompson; the Rev. George D. Alley, Race and Cultural Relations; and the Rev. Roy J. Eilers, Economic Life.

Social Action At General Synod

(Continued from Page 1, Col. 3)

the General Synod. The Review Committee for Christian Social Action was composed of about thirty persons representing a fair cross-section of the membership of the General Synod. The Rev. Richard M. Mapes, Olmsted Falls, Ohio, served as the excellent chairman of this Committee and the Rev. Albert C. Robinson, of Shippensburg, Pennsylvania, was secretary. This Committee received the report of the CCSA, along with its recommendations for policy statements on migratory farm labor, race relations and international affairs. These were the statements sent to the churches in March and revised by the CCSA in the light of recommendations from churches, synods, and conferences. There were also a number of "overtures" from synods which the Review Committee considered.

After four lengthy sessions the Review Committee presented thirteen recommendations, three of which were the policy statements recommended by the CCSA and one of which was the statement on Conscientious Objectors contained in the CCSA report. The 16-page mimeographed Report of the Committee was distributed to the delegates on Wednesday for action Thursday morning.

When the recommendations of the Review Committee were presented as a first item of business on Thursday morning it immediately became evident they were in for heavy sledding. A delegate moved to amend the Committee's commendation of the CCSA by specifically excluding the statement on United States China Policy, adopted by the CCSA on February 6, 1959. This question was discussed pro and con and the amendment was defeated. The public press widely represented this as a General Synod approval of the recognition of Red China. It was not, however, a clear test on that issue, since it was proposed as a limitation upon the motion to commend the CCSA.

Then the CCSA was commended for preparation and implementation of the "Call to Christian Action in Society," for its preparation of additional statements on social issues, for its education in the churches, through institutes, seminars, and consultations, for its publication of SOCIAL ACTION, for its "allocation of a staff member to the Washington office of the National Council of Churches," and for its participation in the Minneapolis project "for the end of racial segregation and discrimination . . . in housing." The CCSA was encouraged to "engage in similar local and area projects which give flesh and blood reality to various parts of the 'Call to Christian Action in Society.' "

This brought the General Synod to the seventh recommendation of the Review Committee which read: "General Synod approves the following statement on 'The Churches and Migratory Agricultural Labor' and commends it to the churches and members for study and action." One delegate moved to delete "General Synod approves." Others pointed out that churches and members had already studied the statements, that copies had been sent to all pastors with the March issue of CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY, that the report forms had been mailed with all quantity orders, and that a number of synods, conferences, churches, and individual members had sent in comments and suggestions. It was further pointed out that the CCSA had already revised the statement in the light of such study and the Review Committee had made further clarifications after these revisions. "What the churches now want from us is the best judgment of the General Synod," it was declared. "The public wants to know whether the churches have anything important to say about the crying issues of our time." The motion to delete "approves" was decisively defeated.

Progress on this statement proceeded haltingly. The delegate from Puerto Rico wanted to be sure that the statement was not concerned exclusively with Mexican labor. When assured that it was not, he was satisfied. There was prolonged discussion over the sentence which introduced recommendations: "We pledge ourselves to support the following measures." The first motion was to defer action on that sentence until after the measures had been considered and approved. Another effort was made to soften the pledge by substituting "We seek the following goals." This proposal was later withdrawn. After prolonged discussion of the meaning of "measures" it was voted to drop the word and simply pledge ourselves "to support the following."

The first "federal measure" was "extension of a federal minimum wage to agricultural workers." It was moved to qualify "agricultural workers" by inserting the word "migratory," but it was pointed out that all agricultural workers need coverage and that one way to help the small farmer would be to require that minimum wages be paid by factory-in-the-field type operations. The discussion was terminated at this point as the hour and a half allotted for consideration of the Review Committee Report had passed.

The following morning the delegates again resumed consideration of the Review Committee Report. A move was made to delete from the statement on migrant farm labor the support of "extension to agricultural employment of full coverage of the child labor protections of the Fair Labor Standards Act." The vote was so close that the Moderator had the delegates counted. The vote proved to be a tie. The Rev. Ernst Press, president of the Midwest Synod, was in the chair at the time and he cast his vote in favor of the proposal as presented by the Review Committee. Also defeated was a move to delete the support of "annual reduction of the number of Mexican nationals imported for agricultural labor under Public Law 78, looking toward the early elimination of this program."

In the statement on "National Responsibility and International Relations" attention was focused on the section on the World Court and the Connally amendment. It was moved to delete the whole section. When this was defeated another motion was made to weaken the paragraph by substituting "we look forward to the time when it will be feasible for the Congress to repeal the Connally amendment." This too was defeated.

The rest of the statement was examined paragraph by paragraph but there were none who requested the right to speak or make any amendments. None questioned the statement supporting "universality of membership" for the United Nations or raised the question of whether this meant the admission of Red China. At one place the General Synod found itself voting on whether it should use the article "a" or the article "the" before the statement that the U.N. is "chief instrument of concerting and executing international policy." The vote was to keep the article "the." The final statement on international relations was substantially what the Review Committee had recommended.

As the Business Committee had recommended, the Moderator called for the Order of the Day at 11:00 o'clock. A motion was before the house to adopt the whole Report of the Review Committee but points of order were being raised. The Executive Council then presented other business items, including information about the temporary headquarters for the United Church in New York City. In due course the Committees on Amenities and Credentials reported and then the Report of the Review Committee was reopened for further consideration.

There was a demand from one of the delegates that a quorum be determined and time was taken to count the delegates present. At 11:30 there were 289 persons present, 239 constituting a quorum. After an effort to adopt only those sections of the Report of the Review Committee which had been discussed on the floor and to refer the remainder to the churches for study, there was a call for the previous question, and the whole Report was adopted by a decisive majority

(Continued on Page 3, Col. 1)

(Continued from Page 2, Col. 3)

f the delegates. This included statements nentioned above as well as the one on Conscientious Objectors and a recommenation that the Executive Council "report o the Fourth General Synod the results f its exploration with the instrumenalities, church-related institutions, and hurches of the moral principles involved n financial support of church-related initutions and churches which practice acial discrimination."

After the adoption of the Report of ne Review Committee it was moved that the General Synod express its comlete opposition to the enactment of any egislation that would provide any addiional federal funds to private and paochial schools, either as to outright grants r low-interest-rate loans, and directs the ecretary of the Church to communicate his action to the members of Congress." There were persons speaking for and gainst this resolution and finally it was eferred to the CCSA for consideration nd action.

Copies of the four statements adopted s part of the Review Committee's Reort are being distributed with the Sepember issue of CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY and are available at ten cents a opy or five cents a copy in orders of wenty or more.

The Third General Synod gave more dequate attention to social issues than ad any previous General Synod of the Jnited Church of Christ. Everyone recgnizes this is a difficult and yet importnt function for such a body to perform. As the chairman of the Review Committee pointed out, it is through decisions Christians make on crucial social issues hat the Word becomes flesh in our time. So the Third General Synod which had abored for unity also brought forth tatements worthy of the Church's mision in society.

LABOR SUNDAY MESSAGE

We call attention to an enclosure, the 1961 Labor Sunday Message. Please note hat additional copies of the Message may be secured from the Office of Publication and Distribution of the National Council of Churches in New York.

SOCIAL ACTION CALENDAR

September 3—Labor Sunday

September 12 - 14—Council for Christian Social Action, Howard University, Washington, D. C.

October 17 - 19—World Order—United Nations Seminar, New York City

October 22 - 27—National Study Conference on The Churches and Social Welfare, Cleveland, Ohio

February 27 - March 2, 1962—Churchmen's Washington Seminar, Washington, D. C.

Co-Ordinated Emphasis For 1961-62

The Family and Rapid Social Change" is the theme of the coordinated emphasis to which almost all Protestant churches in the United States and Canada will be directing attention in the year beginning in September. In laying plans for the emphasis the Department of Family Life in the National Council of Churches adopted the following statement of purpose:

"To involve local churches, councils of churches, church women and youth, and denominational area organizations in a study to analyze and evaluate, in the light of the Christian Gospel, the impact of our culture on families.

"To involve family members in a study of their responsibilities as a Christian family to clarify, articulate, and demonstrate their Christian commitment in the culture and to work for a transformation of that culture;

"To help churches to strengthen families to fulfill these responsibilities."

The Department of Family Life has been preparing study materials and a film which will be found helpful by churches engaging in the emphasis. The film "Buyers Choice," is a 28-minute sound picture which deals with some of the ethical and spiritual implications of the decisions commonly made by families today.

The entire issue of SOCIAL ACTION magazine for September deals with the family theme. Several pastors and laymen who saw pre-publication copies of the magazine said they thought it was a particularly valuable number and hoped it might have attention in all of our churches.

A good bibliography of books related to the emphasis appeared in the May issue of the *International Journal of Religious Education*. One volume which will probably receive wide attention during the year, "Sex Ways in Fact and Faith" was especially prepared by sociologists Evelyn and Sylvanus Duvall to give background material for the year's emphasis.

Dr. Maddocks Begins Work In Washington

Dr. Lewis I. Maddocks, CCSA staff representative in Washington, entered upon his new duties on July 1, and established his family residence in Kensington, Maryland. His office address in Washington is: The National Council of Churches, 122 Maryland Avenue, N.E., Washington 2, D. C.

Dr. Maddocks will be formally installed as CCSA's Washington secretary at a dinner meeting at the First Congregational Church in Washington on Wednesday, September 13. Dr. R. H. Edwin Espy, Associate General Secretary of the National Council of Churches, will speak on "Christian Responsibility for Government."

Caribbean Study Tour Cancelled

Because there were too few applicants for the 1961 CCSA Caribbean Study Tour, scheduled for July 24-August 13, the trip had to be cancelled. It is usually necessary to have twenty tour members in order to make a venture of this nature possible. Some of those who expressed an interest in the tour were eager to visit Cuba. Because of the strained relationships between that country and the United States the State Department declined to validate passports for all tours to Cuba this year.

GENERAL SYNOD ELECTS

In keeping with the By-Laws of the United Church of Christ the General Synod nominated and elected the following eighteen persons as members of the Council for Christian Social Action:

Class of 1963: Mr. Herbert E. Baldwin (Conn.); Mr. Tilford E. Dudley (D. C.); Rev. Everett W. MacNair (Ala.); Mrs. Robert McGeehan (Pa.); Rev. Walter S. Press (Calif.); Rev. Alfred E. Schroeder (Ill.).

Class of 1965: Mrs. John C. Bennett (N.Y.); Mr. Leonard C. Brecher (Ky.); Rev. Emerson G. Hangen (Calif.); Judge Constance Keller (Ohio); Rev. Henry C. Koch (D.C.); Mr. Arthur D. Shores (Ala.).

Class of 1967: Mrs. Frank Havice, (Colo.); Rev. Clarence E. Josephson (Ill.); Rev. William A. Loos (N.Y.); Mrs. Horace Shonle (Ind.); Mr. Robert D. Smink (Pa.); Mr. Ernest J. Toth (N.J.).

The new CCSA will have twenty-seven members. The eighteen persons listed here will elect the other nine members when the Council meets in Washington, D. C., September 12-14.

CCSA at Fall Synod Meetings

In keeping with the "zoning" plan followed in Evangelical and Reformed Churches for a number of years representatives of the Council for Christian Social Action will speak at Fall meetings of nine synods this year, and be available for intensive field work programs during the coming twelve months.

The "zoned" synods, and CCSA staff members who will attend their fall meetings are: West New York, Dr. Gibbons, Dr. Klemme; Northeast Ohio, Dr. Klemme; Northwest Ohio, Dr. Klemme; Southwest Ohio, Dr. Klemme; Southeast Ohio, Mr. Marcus; Pittsburgh, Dr. Klemme and Mr. Schlegel; Kansas City, Mr. Marcus; Missouri Valley, Mr. Schlegel; Texas, Mr. Schlegel. All but one of these synods have two or more regional Fall meetings.

News From the Field

St. Paul's Church, Middletown, Ohio (Rev. Harold C. Grunewald, pastor) was concerned in the spring about a full page advertisement in some Ohio papers bearing the heading "The Catholic Position on School Aid." The "ad" carried the idea that "the present system is unjust, that Roman Catholic rights are not recognized, that they are discriminated against, and that the distribution of school taxes is not democratic." To meet the confusion caused among Protestants in Middletown Pastor Grunewald circulated the CCSA statement on *The Church and Public Education* (1959) and the National Council of Churches' General Board statement on Public Funds for Public Schools (1961).

* * * *

The Church of the Good Shepherd, Albuquerque, N. M. (Rev. Paul Mohr, pastor) in a recent newsletter urged members to join an automobile caravan to the state capital "to watch the legislature in action and to express their views concerning bills before that group . . . A number of bills affecting us and our community are: School tax laws, merit personnel bills, tax on pari-mutuel betting, and others."

* * * *

A memorandum from the chairman of Lancaster Synod's Committee on Christian Social Action tells of a meaningful meeting at Hamilton Park Church in Lancaster, when Rev. Archie Hargroves spoke "in a manner that reflected Biblical faith, sociological perception, keen appreciation of the needs and awareness of the major problems of the inner city, and courageous appreciation of the city's problems. It seemed to me that many people went away, not only challenged, but hopeful for the role the church plays in the world." 107 persons from 18 congregations attended the conference.

* * * *

First Congregational Church in Eugene, Oregon recently held a series of four discussions on juvenile delinquency. Topics were as follows:

What the police and the courts have to say;

Delinquency from the point of view of youth;

Cause of Delinquency;

What are some solutions?

* * * *

Washington State Conference held five Social Action workshops in early summer, with a total attendance of 266 persons. Dr. Julian Keiser, Minister of Social Action in the Southern California Conference, leader of the workshops, gave special attention to the responsibility of the church to meet the threats of communism.

Dr. Keiser said he felt most Americans need to know much more about Communism and particularly about how the Communist front groups operate. "I think Americans must realize that Communists work on social issues for a completely different reason from that which Christian people do. They seek to exploit the issues and hold up American faults for all the uncommitted people of the world to see. They don't want to eliminate such injustices as exist, nor the pockets of American poverty in this country, because these are their only toehold on the American people.

"A threat to American freedom as great as Communism is the careless blurring of issues which blend social legislation and liberal social and economic views with socialism and communism and carelessly smears people in the government, ministry and teaching profession as being treasonists," he said.

Dr. Keiser pointed out the urgency of helping people "capture the passion for freedom which our founding fathers had; not freedom to do as you please, but freedom to act responsibly in a complex social situation for the benefit of one's fellow men. We should maintain a climate within which controversy can be dealt with in a spirit of goodwill, a climate within which people are not afraid to discuss issues lest they be labeled subversive. The Church should be 'exhibit A' in demonstrating the meaning of freedom in its own life.

"The Church has an obligation to make its own community a demonstration of freedom, the kind of freedom which deals with difficult and controversial issues. We must learn to disagree agreeably, rather than seeking the harmony of conformity of coercion."

* * * *

A new committee on Christian Social Action in the United Church at Marine, Illinois, took as a first project a study of the "Ministry to the Aging," using a study packet prepared by CCSA. The result of the study was the formation of a group of lay visitors to shut ins, aging, and nursing home residents in the Marine area. The committee continues to focus attention on other vital social concerns.

* * * *

A six page report from California, received from Dr. Robert Wesley Brown, member of the First Congregational Church in Palo Alto, indicates that much real progress has been made in the last four years by groups interested in open housing covenant campaigns in the San Francisco Bay Area. 12,000 persons "have indicated their willingness to welcome into their neighborhood persons of whatever race, creed or national origin. 9,000 names of these signers have appeared in seven newspaper advertisements. More than 70 churches have cooperated."

Direct results of the open housing movement campaign cannot easily be measured, but the report shows that people who have signed the covenant have necessarily done much soul searching, and have grown in commitment and knowledge as they have been led into the work for better race relations. Communities have benefitted also as various faith groups have given attention to a matter of common concern. Real estate practices, too, have shown some changes as more homes are offered on an open housing basis and discriminatory practices have relaxed. In a few cases churches have lost some members, but the real effect upon the churches has been in the increasing respect on the part of many persons, within and outside of the church, who have been committed to the principles of equality.

In spite of the progress made persons interested in housing justice must not be complacent, for even where efforts like these are made in behalf of minority people segregation persists, even increases! The California group says that "new laws and their enforcement are required" as need for more low cost housing increases along with programs of urban renewal.

* * * *

The May meeting of the Massachusetts State Conference passed some well worded resolutions on social concerns, including the alcohol problem; corruption in public life; capital punishment; church-state relations; operation abolition, and racial and cultural relations. This last one urged churches to participate in open housing movement programs. Social action resolutions passed by the conference in 1954, 1956, 1958 and 1960 were reaffirmed, and delegates were asked to keep them actively before their people.

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

SEPTEMBER, 1961

News and Program Service of the Council for Christian Social Action of the United Church of Christ
Ray Gibbons, Director
Huber F. Klemme, Associate Director and Editor

Sent free to pastors and social action committee chairmen. Group subscriptions, 10 or more to one address, 50 cents each. Individual subscriptions, $2 per year with SOCIAL ACTION upon request.

General communications and orders from Evangelical and Reformed churches should be addressed to the Editor, Council for Christian Social Action, 2969 W. 25th St., Cleveland 13, Ohio.

Congregational Christians should order from Council for Christian Social Action, 289 Park Avenue South, New York 10, N. Y.

The Council for Christian Social Action unites the work of the Council for Social Action of the Congregational Christian Churches and the Commission on Christian Social Action of the Evangelical and Reformed Church.